

[122]
LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,
TRANSMITTING,
PURSUANT TO A RESOLUTION
OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, OF THE 26th ULT.
INFORMATION IN RELATION
TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NEGRO FORT,
IN
EAST FLORIDA,
IN
THE MONTH OF JULY, 1816, &c. &c.

FEBRUARY 2, 1819.

Read, and committed to the Committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

WASHINGTON:

E. DE KRAFFT, PRINTER.

1819.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

1st February, 1819.

SIR,

In pursuance of the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 26th ultimo, "directing the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, to lay before the House a copy of the military orders, in virtue of which, the Negro Fort within the territory of East Florida was destroyed, in the month of July, 1816; together with the correspondence of colonel Clinch and commodore Patterson in relation to that event: and any other information which may be in his possession, in relation to the movement of the Indians in the Seminole country," I have the honor to transmit a copy of the order of this Department, in virtue of which, the Negro Fort, within the territory of East Florida, was destroyed in July, 1816; and copies of letters addressed to this Department by major generals Jackson and Gaines, which comprehend all the information required by the resolution relative to the destruction of the fort, in the Department of War.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. C. CALHOUN.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives
of the United States.*

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

IN WHICH ARE CONTAINED THE
MOST IMPORTANT PASSES OF HIS REIGN
FROM HIS MARRIAGE TO HIS DEATH
BY SAMUEL JOHNSON
ESQ; OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON
IN TWO VOLUMES
THE SECOND

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OF LONDON
IN TWO VOLUMES
THE SECOND



(Copy.)

*The Secretary of War to General A. Jackson.**Department of War,**15th March, 1816.*

SIR,

I appears from the representations of colonel Hawkins, that the Negro Fort, erected during the war at the junction of the Chattahoochie and Flint Rivers, has been strengthened since that period, and now occupied by between two hundred and fifty and three hundred blacks, who are well armed, clothed, and disciplined. Secret practices to inveigle negroes from the frontiers of Georgia, as well as from the Cherokee and Creek nations, are still continued by the negroes and hostile Creeks. This is a state of things which cannot fail to produce much injury to the neighboring settlements, and excite irritations which may ultimately endanger the peace of the nation. The President has therefore directed me to instruct you, to call the attention of the governor or military commander of Pensacola to this subject. The principles of good neighborhood, require the interference of the Spanish authority, to put an end to an evil of so serious a nature. Should he decline this interference, it will be incumbent on the executive to determine what course shall be adopted in relation to this banditti. Should it be determined, that the destruction of the fort does not require the sanction of the legislature, measures will be promptly taken for its reduction. From the representations of its strength, heavy cannon will be necessary to batter it. It is presumed, that a co-operation of the naval force may be useful, at least, in transporting the battering train.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

*Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson,**Nashville, Tennessee.*

*Extract of a letter from General Andrew Jackson to the
Honorable Wm. H. Crawford.*

Head Quarters,

Division of the South,

Greenville, M. T. April 24th, 1816.

SIR,

Your two letters of the 15th ultimo, I had the honor to receive last evening at Natchez. I immediately addressed a note to the governor of Pensacola on the subject of the Negro Fort, which I placed in the hands of colonel Jessup to be handed to captain Amelung of the 1st regiment of infantry, whom I have instructed to be the bearer of it. It is accompanied with the necessary instructions to captain Amelung for his government, copies of which, with an extract of a letter of mine to general Gaines on this subject of the 8th inst. shall be forwarded you as soon as I reach Nashville, at which point I have advised generals Gaines and Smith I should be on the 8th proximo; at which time and place I expect to receive communications from each of those gentlemen. I have a hope that general Gaines has attended to the subject of this Negro Fort and put an end to the lawless depredations of this banditti of land-pirates. He has been left to his discretion to act on this subject, with my opinion, if certain facts can be proven against them, that their fort must be destroyed. I trust he has taken the hint. So soon as I receive the governor or commanding officer's answer, I shall forward you copies of this correspondence.

I have the honor to be,

With high consideration,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

ANDREW JACKSON,

*Major General Commanding Division
[of the South.]*

*Hon. Wm. H. Crawford,
Secretary of War.*

Copy of orders by General A. Jackson to Capt. F. L. Amelung.

Head Quarters, Division of the South,

Washington, M. T.

23d April, 1816.

SIR,

The confidence that major general Jackson reposes in your integrity and secrecy, induces him to select you as the bearer of an important despatch, to the governor of Pensacola; you will apply to lieutenant colonel Croghan, commanding the 8th military department, for the general's communication, and proceed without delay on your mission. You will remain a reasonable time at Pensacola, for the governor's answer, and by all respectful means, urge a definite answer on all the points touched on, in the general's letter. So soon as you receive this answer, you will return to New Orleans, and by the first mail, forward it to the general at Nashville, Tennessee: Or, should you deem the answer very important in its nature, and particularly if it savours of hostility, you will repair to Mobile, or Fort Montgomery, and by express, forward it with the utmost despatch to the Head Quarters of this division.

You will endeavor, in conversing with the governor or commanding officer, and through all other channels that may offer to obtain information, whether the fort occupied by the negroes, has been erected by Spanish orders or authority, or by the British; and whether the territory on which it is erected, is claimed by Spain, or ceded to Britain.

In any event, on your return from Pensacola, you will report to the general any information you may obtain, concerning the dispositions of the Spaniards, or the banditti on the Apalachicola.

Colonel Croghan will show you the general's despatch before he seals it.

By command,

(Signed)

ISAAC L. BAKER,

Aid de Camp.

Capt. Ferdinand L. Amelung,

1st regiment, U. S. Infantry.

A true copy,

(Signed)

ISAAC L. BAKER.

Aid de Camp.

(Copy.)

Gen. Jackson to the Governor of Pensacola.

Head Quarters,

Division of the South,

Washington, M. T.

23d April, 1816.

SIR,

I am charged by my government to make known to you, that a Negro Fort, erected during our late war with Britain, at or near the junction of the Chattahouchie and Flint rivers, has been strengthened since that period, and is now occupied by upwards of two hundred and fifty negroes, many of whom have been enticed away from the service of their masters, citizens of the United States, all of whom are well clothed and disciplined. Secret practices to inveigle negroes from the citizens of Georgia, as well as from the Cherokee and Creek nations of Indians, are still continued by the banditti and the hostile Creeks. This is a state of things, which cannot fail to produce much injury to the neighboring settlements, and excite irritations which eventually may endanger the peace of the nation, and interrupt that good understanding, which happily exists between our governments. The principles of good faith, which always insure good neighborhood between nations, require the immediate and prompt interference of the Spanish authority, to destroy or remove from our frontier the banditti; put an end to an event of so serious a nature, and to return to our citizens, and the friendly Indians inhabiting our territory, those negroes now in the said fort, and which have been stolen and enticed from them. I cannot permit myself to indulge a belief, that the governor of Pensacola, or the military commander of that place, will hesitate a moment in giving orders for this banditti to be dispersed, and the property of the citizens of the United States forthwith restored to them, and our friendly Indians; particularly when I reflect that the conduct of this banditti is such, as will not be tolerated by our government, and if not put down by Spanish authority, will compel us in self-defence to destroy them. This communication is entrusted to captain Amelung, of the 1st regiment, United States infantry, who is charged to bring back such answer, as you may be pleased to make to this letter. In your answer, you will please to state whether that fort has been built by the go-

vernment of Spain, and whether those negroes who garrison it are considered as the subjects of his catholic majesty, and if not by his catholic majesty, by whom, and under whose orders it has been erected.

(Signed)

ANDREW JACKSON,

Maj. Gen. Commanding,

Division of the South.

To the Governor of Pensacola,

Or military Commander of that place.

A true copy,

ISAAC L. BAKER,

Aid de Camp.

(Copy.)

General A. Jackson to the Secretary of War.

Head Quarters, Div. of the South,

Nashville, 12th May, 1816.

SIR,

Enclosed you find the communications promised in my letter to you, under date of the 24th April, from Greenville, M. T. I trust you will be satisfied with the order I have taken with regard to the Negro Fort. You find by my letter to gen. Gaines, of the 8th ult, accompanying this, that even before the receipt of your letter, of the 15th March, that officer was vested by me with full discretionary powers to act on this subject.

I am, Sir, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed]

ANDREW JACKSON,

Maj. Gen. commanding Div. South.

Wm. H. Crawford, Esq.

Secretary of War.

(Extract.)

*Head Quarters,**Div. of the South,**New Orleans, 8th April, 1816.***SIR,**

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 16th and 20th of February, and the 12th and 20th of March, which I hasten to answer.

Your letters of the 15th of March with accompanying documents, are also received, and will receive due attention, and will be replied to so soon as I can have an interview with the contractor's agent here.

On the subject of the disposition of the 4th and 7th infantry under your command, the positions to be occupied by those troops, and the course to be pursued toward the Indians, I refer you to my letter bearing date at Fort Mims, the 12th of March last, and the accompanying copy of a letter from Mr. Tait therein referred to, all which were left in the hands of the commanding officer at Fort Montgomery, to be forwarded to you, and which I hope have reached you. The growing hostile dispositions of the Indians must be checked by prompt and energetic movements; half peace, half war, is a state of things which must not exist. The murderers of Johnston and M^cGlasky must be had and punished. No retreat must provide an asylum for them. Any town or village affording them protection, if refused to be surrendered when demanded, must be destroyed. I regret much that the statement made by a freeman of color respecting the Negro Fort, and referred to in yours of the 20th February, did not accompany your despatches. I therefore can only repeat that you possess the power of acting on your discretion, which I hope you will exercise on this. If the conduct of these people is such as to encourage the Indian war; if the fort harbors the negroes of our citizens, or friendly Indians living within our territory, or hold out inducements to the slaves of our citizens to desert from their owner's service, this fort must be destroyed. Under whose authority has this fort been established? Whose subjects do they profess to be? Who occupy it? Will be necessary inquiries for you to make. If they profess to be the subjects of a power with whom we are at peace, then their acts are acts of war, and ought to be made the subject of demand for redress by our government. If they are a banditti assembled on the territory of Spain, or claim to be the subjects of any other power, and are stealing and enticing away our negroes, they ought to be viewed as a band of out-laws, land pirates, and ought to be destroyed. Notify the governor of Pensacola of your advance into his territory, and for the express purpose of destroying these lawless banditti.

I have very little doubt of the fact that this fort has been established by some villains for the purpose of murder, rapine, and plunder, and that it ought to be blown up regardless of the ground it stands on; and from the facts and knowledge you possess regarding this Negro Fort, if your mind should have formed the same conclusion, destroy it, and restore the stolen negroes and property to their rightful owners.

I am, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed)

ANDREW JACKSON.

Maj. Gen. E. P. Gaines.

(A true copy.)

ISAAC L. BAKER,

Aid de Camp.

Extract of a Letter from General Andrew Jackson, to the Secretary of War.

Head Quarters,

Division of the South,

Nashville, June 15th, 1816.

SIR,

I have this moment received the answer of the commanding officer and governor of Pensacola to mine of the 23d of April, which I hasten to forward for your information, as well as the copy of the report of captain Amelung of the 1st infantry, who was the bearer of my letter. I send you the original, retaining a copy in English, forwarded to me by captain Amelung.

The answer bears the marks of candor, and breathes the spirit of friendship, and as those marauders on our frontier are acknowledged *officially* as rebels against the government of Spain, there can be no fear of disturbing the good understanding that exists between us and Spain, by destroying their Negro Fort, restoring to the owners the negroes that may be captured.

The 4th and 7th infantry will be sufficient to destroy it; a few troops from the 1st infantry with a small naval force, will prevent

their escape, and capture, those vessels named by captain Amelung in his report. I shall await your order on this subject, which shall be promptly obeyed and executed.

Yours respectfully,

Your most obed't serv't,

ANDREW JACKSON,

*Major General Commanding Division
of the South.*

*The Hon. Wm. H. Crawford,
Secretary of War.*

(Copy.)

New Orleans, 4th June, 1816.

SIR,

In obedience to your order received on the 6th of May last, I proceeded the next day for Pensacola, but owing to adverse winds, (having to wait twelve days at the Bay St. Louis,) I only arrived at that place on the 24th May. I was received and treated with great attention by the governor and his officers, and after receiving his answer to your letter, I left there on the 27th, and arrived here on the 2d instant.

I have the honor to transmit herewith the answer of the governor, (which, I think, embraces all the points touched upon in your letter) and also take the liberty to subjoin a translation thereof, as it might happen that no person is near you, understanding the Spanish language. I am firmly of opinion, that the governor asserts the truth, in his communication, and am convinced that the inhabitants of Pensacola have suffered and do now suffer more than our citizens, from the existence of the fort and its garrison.

I also take the liberty of communicating such intelligence as I have been able to collect from good authority and which might, perhaps, be of use. The fort in question, is situated at Bonavista, on the eastern bank of the Apalachicola river, fifteen miles above its mouth, and one hundred and twenty east of Pensacola. The river

discharges itself into St. George's Sound, and vessels drawing not more than ten feet water may come in between St. George's and St. Vincent's Islands; the bar however is dangerous, and requires skilful pilots

This fort was constructed by Nichols and Woodbine, and the British occasionally resorted thither, but on their final evacuation of this country, left it in possession of a garrison composed of negroes and Indians, with four pieces of heavy ordnance and 10,000 pounds of powder, &c.

About twenty Choctaws, a number of Seminoles, and a great number of runaway negroes, are supposed to have been there some time ago, but a great part of these brigands have abandoned the fort on account of scarcity of provisions, and have gone to Savannah, (alias St. Joseph's) river, in East Florida, whither they will no doubt all retire, in case of an attack by land, as they have a schooner and several large boats to make good their retreat by sea, if not interrupted.

From this spot they can easily annoy our settlement on Flint river, and the whole Georgia frontier, and are in a country where they can procure subsistence with facility.

Pensacola itself is, I can assure you, entirely defenceless; the garrison consists of from eighty to one hundred effective men, exclusive of a battalion of coloured troops, say about one hundred and fifty men, of whom the inhabitants themselves stand in constant dread. They have about one hundred and fifty serviceable muskets, about five hundred musket cartridges, and not enough gunpowder to fire a salute; one gun was mounting at Barancas on the day I left there. To this, is to be added the dissatisfaction of the inhabitants, and even of a number of the officers of government, and the desire of a majority to see a change effected. I must not forget to present to you on the part of the governor, the thanks of the inhabitants of Pensacola, for the example and the humane conduct of the army, under your command at Pensacola, and I verily believe their professions to be sincere.

The governor also, on my mentioning, in conversation, that I was persuaded you would willingly assist in destroying the fort, said, if the object was sufficiently important to require the presence of general Jackson, he would be proud to command by you, and that if the captain general of Cuba, could not furnish him with the necessary means he might perhaps apply to you for assistance.

Having nothing further to add,

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

FERD. Z. AMELUNG,

Capt. 1st Infantry.

A true copy,

J. H. Dante, Judge Adv. Div. South.

(Copy.)

Washington, 26th January.

SIR,

By Mr. Thomas Holliday, who left this place early in December last, I sent \$6,200, for the use of the Georgia contract; and by Mr. John Frank, who followed him about the 29th, I sent \$6,300 more, for the same purpose. I am greatly concerned to hear, that requisitions for supplies have not been complied with, of which the newspapers make mention; and that general Gaines has been compelled to order purchases to be made by government agents. I hope that this purchase has not been made in the contractor's default, and that the general has resorted to it as a measure of additional safety, as he was warranted in doing, by the exigent circumstances under which he was placed.

I pray you to make every exertion to fulfill my engagements, and let me know fully and freely your wants, and they shall be supplied as funds will answer.

I have not heard a word from Mr. Frank, Mr. Holliday, or yourself, or Mr. Cope, for a month past, and I am really uneasy.

With great respect,

I am, your obt. servt.

(Signed) BENJAMIN G. ORR.

Extract of a letter from general E. P. Gaines, dated Head Quarters, Chattahouchie river, near Fort Mitchell, 20th March, 1816, to the honorable Wm. H. Crawford, Secretary of War.

I returned to this place on the 21st instant, and found the detachment under the command of lieutenant colonel Clinch, preparing boats to descend the river. We have seven flat bottomed boats, six of which will carry one hundred men each, with their baggage; they are planked up the sides, and will make comfortable quarters, and safe store rooms for our provision, and other supplies. Four are now in the water, the others are turned up, and will be launched

to day. To-morrow we shall depart for Summochockoba; I shall have a small work thrown up near the new line, to consist of two block houses, and picketing sufficient, should it be deemed necessary, to be defended by one company. A similar work for two companies, I am persuaded, will be necessary near the Spanish boundary, to protect the public surveyors engaged running the township and section lines.

Should a post be established on the Appalachicola, and an intercourse opened down that river with New Orleans, our supplies could be obtained from that place, at a very small expense. Such an intercourse would enable us to keep an eye upon the Negro Fort, and Seminole Indians below.

Copy of a letter from Major General E. P. Gaines, to the Secretary of War.

Head Quarters, near Summochockoba,

Creek Nation, 6th April, 1816.

SIR,

The detachment under the command of lieutenant colonel Clinch, arrived at Summochockoba, on the 2d instant, and on the day following, took a position on the left bank of the Chattahouchie, a mile south of the line. The detachment is now occupied in fortifying this position, by a small work, of which I send you a plan. The site is very strong and handsome, it is on a hill or bluff 133 feet, nearly perpendicular from the edge of the water.

The Chattahouchie, from Fort Mitchell to this place, distance about sixty miles, affords excellent navigation for small craft. The water is at this time, something more than two feet deeper, than it usually has been in dry weather. The velocity of the current, is for the most part, between 3 and 3 1 2 miles, and is no where above four miles an hour. There is no fall or shoal, sufficient to ruffle the surface of the water, or to interrupt the ascent of boats of considerable burden. Boats drawing four feet water, would at present ascend with great convenience, twelve or fifteen miles a day. The river is generally between eighty and one hundred yards wide.

I have seen no place where it is more than one hundred and forty. There are no islands or sand beach, except two or three very

small ones. The banks are thirty to fifty feet high, and composed of rotten stone and tough clay. They are generally very steep. The adjacent land is of good quality, and but little of it subject to inundation. The timber is generally of hickory, and red oak, mixed with pine. After leaving the river for a few miles, the land becomes poor, and the timber principally pine. There are Indian settlements on each side of the river, all the way down. They appear wretched and destitute of every thing like the comfort or economy of civilization.

I have explained to their chiefs the object of our movement, to complete the line and lay out the land, that our people may buy and settle it: that we have brought with us the *pipe of peace* for our friends, for our enemies, *cannon* and *bayonets*. They reply, that they are too weak and too poor to oppose us, and have therefore determined to sit still and hold down their heads.

To reason with *savage man*, before he has acquired any distinct notion of reason, it is to effect nothing, and leave him still a savage. Force, guided by justice, *may possibly* transform him into a civilized being, but nothing else will. For the correctness of this opinion, I appeal to the history of our American savages; some of them have indeed learned many of the *vices* of civilization, but they have learned little or nothing more. The reports from below are, similar to those which I communicated to you in February last.

I have ordered a detachment to accompany the surveyor upon the line, and shall to-morrow follow them. Messrs. Barnett and Hawkins, I left near Fort Mitchell, on the last of March. I shall probably see them at the Ofusechu or Fort Jackson, where I beg to hear from you on the subject of my resignation as commissioner.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) EDMUND P. GAINES.

*The hon. Wm. H. Crawford,
Secretary of War.*

Major General E. P. Gaines to Maj. Gen. A. Jackson.

Camp, Near M^{rs} Queen's place,

March 20th, 1816.

GENERAL,

The battalion under the command of lieutenant col. Clinch, had crossed Flint river on the 16th instant, and is now, I presume, at

Chattahouchie. This force will not be required by the commissioners, for more than two weeks. I am of opinion, however, that for the protection of the surveyors of public lands, and to keep in check the Seminole Indians, we shall be under the necessity of establishing a post on the Chattahouchie, near the national boundary. I shall await your order upon this subject. Should a post be established, its supplies, I am persuaded, may be derived more conveniently, and more economically from Mobile or New Orleans, than any other source. If such an intercourse could be opened down the Appalachicola, it would enable us to keep an eye upon the Seminoles, and the Negro Fort. The negro establishment is (I think justly) considered as likely to produce much evil among the blacks of Georgia, and the eastern part of the Mississippi territory.

Will you permit me to break it up?

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

E. P. GAINES.

Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson,

Com. in Chief, Division of the South.

(Copy.)

Camp, near Fort Jackson,

April 30th, 1816.

SIR,

I have just now received a letter from lieut. col. Clinch, dated near the mouth of Summoichoba, the 26th instant, enclosing a communication from the Little Prince, a copy of which I enclose herewith,

This chief is on a tour down the river to visit the Seminole chiefs near the Appalachicola.

The ostensible object of the visit was to adopt measures to take the Negro Fort, and as col. Hawkins had confidence in the promises of the Indians to effect this object, I sanctioned a requisition for sup-

plying them with three hundred bushels of corn, to serve as rations. That I have little faith in their promises I will not deny, but it seemed to me proper to encourage them in the prosecution of a measure, which I felt persuaded would, if successful, be attended with great benefit to our southern frontier inhabitants, as well as to the Indians themselves.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed)

EDMUND P. GAINES.

Hon. Wm. H. Crawford,

Secretary of War.



Copy of a letter from the Little Prince.

To the commander of the United States' forces in the Indian nation,

SIR,

Jackson and Hawkins spoke to us and told us we were their children; at the Tuskegee meeting you told us you would have the land as far down as the Summochichoba, but we chiefs did not agree to it; you did not tell us then you would build forts along the river bank down to the fork, but we heard since you issued orders to that effect; we do not think it friendly for one friend to take any thing from another forcibly. The commander and Hawkins did not tell us any thing about building of these forts; did you know these things and keep them hid from me? We told our friend Hawkins we would hold a meeting at this place on our way down; we were at the fort at Summochichoba, built by the commanding officer, that he had orders to build three forts. Our friend Hawkins told us to go down to the fort of the blacks and take them out of it, and give them to their masters, which we are at at this present. When we have heard of Jackson's orders about building these forts, we hear of your meeting at Tuskegee. We hope you will detain the forces at the place they are at at present, and wait on the Indians, as I am sure they will be able to settle every thing, but all the chiefs are not yet met; you know that we are slow in our movements. I spoke to the commanding officer at Summochichoba; he will read this and write it off on a clean sheet,

and send it on to the commander in chief and col. Hawkins. I beg you will send me back an answer and a sheet of paper, and a little ink, in order to enable me to write to you again if it should be necessary.

I remain your friend.

(Signed)

TUSTANNUGGU HOPOY.

Wrote as spoken,

By Wm. Hambly, 26th April, 1816.

(Signed) U. S. PENDERTON.

A true copy.

ROB. R. RUFFIN,

Lieut. Artillery, A. D. Camp.

(Copy.)

Fort Montgomery, M. T.

May 24th, 1816.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit herewith two letters from lieutenant col. Clinch, dated the 7th and 9th instant, No. 1 and 2, together with my reply, No. 3.

I also transmit a copy of my requisition, which I have deemed it necessary to make for three battalions of militia, to assemble at fort Hawkins, on the 15th of the next month, No. 4.

By the enclosed letter from major Freeman, the surveyor general, you will find that he has been compelled to suspend the surveys of the public land in this district, and has called upon me for a guard of one hundred men, which I have promised to furnish.

Colonel M'Donald has been ordered to form a junction with lieutenant colonel Clinch. The militia will not be called further than

fort Hawkins, unless the Indians have killed, or shall retain the men which they have taken, provided I shall, in the mean time, receive no order upon this occasion.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully, your obdt. servt.

(Signed)

EDMUND. P. GAINES.

*The Hon. W. H. Crawford,
Secretary of War.*

No. 1.

(Copy.)

Fort Gaines, May 7th, 1816.

SIR,

I had the honor to inform you on the 3d instant, of the hostile movements of the Indians, near the confluence of the Flint and Chattahouchie, and that a party of them had taken two soldiers, and drove off thirty head of cattle.

The spy I sent on the Flint, returned on the 5th inst. and informed me that he learnt, that the party that took the soldiers and cattle, came from the Flint, that they crossed that river at Burges' Old Place, and that they had not killed the men at that time, but he understood they intended doing so, if they became too much fatigued to travel to the Negro Fort, where they intended carrying them.

He further stated, that he understood from some of his friends in that quarter, that the Seminoles, all the towns on the Flint, near the confluence of the two rivers, and most of those on the Chattahouchie, were preparing for war. That they had been dancing and drinking their war physic, for several days, that they had determined to divide themselves into two parties, one party to go against Hartford, (Geo.) and the other to come up and attack the troops under my command.

This rumour has been confirmed by an Indian just from Flint, who arrived at the town of the Oketeyocannes, last evening, the chief of which town, sent Mr. Hardridge, (who lives near him,) to me this morning, to inform me that such were the reports, but that he did

not know what to think of them. I have not received an answer to the demand I sent to the chiefs, but ought to receive one to-morrow. The Hardridges' were with me this morning, and are of opinion that they are preparing to strike a blow somewhere. They further state, that several of the towns that wish to be friendly, are preparing to move above the line.

That they are determined on war, I have no doubt, but whether their force is near equal to what it is represented to be (from 1500 to 2000,) I cannot determine.

Hambly, who has had the best means of knowing their strength, informed Mr. Lewis, that the British had nearly 3,000 employed against us. If they are determined on a fight, I feel every disposition to gratify them, and I feel confident I can repel (as long as my provisions and ammunition hold out) any force they can bring against me. I have applied to colonel M'Donald for a supply of provisions and ammunition. I have refused to supply the chiefs with corn until the soldiers and cattle are returned, and every thing settled below to my satisfaction.

Respectfully, Sir, I am,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

D. L. CLINCH.

Lt. Col. 4th Inf. Com'g.

Major General Gaines, Commdg.

P. S. Since writing the above, an Indian has arrived from below, and informs me that the chiefs have all broke up, and that the prince is on his way home, and confirms the report that I have before stated.

No. 2.

Fort Gaines, May 9th, 1816.

SIR,

In my communications of the 3d and 7th instant, I did myself the honor to give you all the information I was in possession of, respecting the hostile movements of the Indians, near the confluence of the Flint and Chattahouchie.

Yesterday evening, the Prince, several of the chiefs that live above this, and Mr. Hambly, arrived at this post. The prince told me, that he had done every thing that lay in his power to induce the lower Indians to go against the Negro Fort, and to let the white people alone; but that they were crazy, and would not listen to him;

that they had deceived him for some time; but that, at last, he had discovered they were determined on their own destruction, and that I might do as I pleased with them. From what I can learn of Ham-bly, it appears that himself, the Prince and party, had to run off; and that a party of the Tuttelosus pursued them, with the intention (if taken) to keep the Prince a prisoner, and to burn himself. He further states it as his opinion, that they cannot raise more than 500 men that will go to war. Tuttelosus, and Micesookus, are the principal instigators; but he thinks most of the towns on the Flint below Barnett's, and several towns on the east bank of the Chattahoochee, will join them. Several of the chiefs below and near me, have come in and begged protection. They state that they have their crops in the ground, and unless I will let them stay at home and till them, the women and children must starve. I have told them to stay at home, and make their corn; that when I approach their towns, the chiefs must meet me with their warriors without arms; that I would take a list of them, and if any of them joined the hostile party, they were never to suffer them to return again, on pain of having their towns destroyed. This they were willingly agreed to; and the Prince informed me, that he had ordered all the chiefs that wish to remain friendly to come and see me as soon as possible. I am extremely anxious to move down on those fellows, and will do so, as soon as the state of my provisions and ammunition will admit of it. I propose ordering two companies of the battalion of the 4th, now on their march from Charleston, to leave their heavy baggage at the agency, and join me as soon as possible. I then propose leaving all my heavy baggage, and a sufficient number of men to man the boats at this post, and move the balance of my command down the river, by rapid marches, and destroy every hostile town between this and the confluence of the two rivers; after which, my boats can drop down with ease and safety, in two days. I will then select a strong position on the Flint, fortify my camp, move up that river, and destroy all the towns to Burge's old place, and order the command left at the agency to descend the Flint with our supplies; and if my force will admit of it, *I will pursue the enemy further, and strike a blow in another quarter.*

Respectfully,

I am your obedient serv't.

D. L. CLINCH,

Lieut. Col. 4th inf'y.

No. 3.

(Copy.)

*Head Quarters,**Fort Montgomery, M. T. 23d May, 1816.*

SIR,

Your letters up to the 9th instant, have been received. The British Agent Hambly, and the little Prince, and others, are acting a part which I have been at a loss for sometime past to understand. Are they not endeavoring to amuse and divert us from our main object? Their tricks, if they be so, have assumed a serious aspect, and may lead to *their* distruction, but *we* have little to apprehend from them. They must be watched with an eye of vigilance. The post near the junction of the rivers, to which I called your attention in the last month, must be established speedily, even if we have to fight our way to it through the ranks of the whole nation.

The surveyors have commenced laying off the land to be sold and settled; and they must be protected. The force of the whole nation cannot arrest your movement down the river on board the boats, if secured up the sides with two inch plank, and covered with clap boards; nor could all the nation prevent your landing and constructing a stockade work sufficient to secure you, unless they should previously know the spot at which you intend to land, and had actually assembled at that place previous to, or within four hours of your landing; but your force is not sufficient to warrant your march to the different villages, as suggested, by land. The whole of your force (except about forty men, or one company for the defence of Fort Gaines) should be kept near your boats and supplies, until the new post shall be established. You may then strike at any hostile party near you, with all your disposable force; but even then, you should not go more than one or two days march from your fort.

If your supplies of provisions and ammunition have reached you, let your detachment move as directed in my letter of the 28th of last month. You can venture to move with twenty-five days rations; but you should order a supply to the Agency, or Fort Gaines, where a boat should be built and held in readiness to send down, in case any accident should prevent or delay the arrival of a supply which I have ordered from New Orleans.

I enclose you an extract of a letter containing an arrangement for the supply by water, and have to direct that *you will provide a boat, and despatch it with an officer and fifty men, to meet the vessels from New Orleans, as soon as you are advised of their being on

*NOTE.—Thirty thousand rations have been ordered from New Orleans up the Appalachicola, and commodore Patterson requested to send a convoy of one or two gun vessels.

the river. One of your large boats will answer the purpose, provided you have no barge or keel boat. Should the boat meet with opposition, at what is called the Negro Fort, arrangements will immediately be made for its destruction; and for that purpose, you will be supplied with two 18 pounders, and one howitzer, with fixt ammunition, and implements complete to be sent in a vessel to accompany the provision. I have likewise ordered fifty thousand musket cartridges, some rifles, swords, &c. Should you be compelled against the Negro Fort, you will land at a convenient point above it, and force a communion with the commanding officer of the vessels below, and arrange with him your plan of attack. Upon this subject you shall hear from me again, as soon as I am notified of the time at which the vessels will sail from New Orleans.

With great respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) **EDMUND P. GAINES,**
Maj. Gen. Commanding.

Lt. Col. D. L. Clinch,

Or, Officer Commg. on the Chattahouchie.

A true copy,

ROB. R. RUFFIN,
Aid de Camp.

No. 4.

(Copy.)

Head Quarters, Fort Montgomery, M. T.

24th May, 1816.

SIR,

By a letter which I have received from lieutenant colonel Clinch, commanding the 4th United States infantry, upon the Chattahouchie, I learn that in the early part of the present month, a party of Indians, surprised and took from the immediate vicinity of his camp, two soldiers of his regiment, with thirty head beef cattle. The Indians being mounted, and having travelled during the night, could not be overtaken; they took the road leading to St. Marks. This outrage, preceded by the murder of two of our citizens, John-

son and M. Glaskey, and accompanied, and followed by certain indications of general hostility, such as the *war dance*, and drinking *war physic*, by the Indians from below, and about the line, leaves little doubt that we shall be compelled to destroy the hostile towns. With this view, I have to request of your excellency, one complete regiment of infantry, and a battalion of mounted men, (to consist of infantry and riflemen) to assemble at Fort Hawkins, armed and equipped for service, on the 15th day of June, (next month, or as soon after that day as practicable,) when they will be organized according to law, mustered and inspected, and be supplied with rations, camp equipage, &c. to serve the United States for three months, unless sooner discharged.

I have delayed this communication for some days, in the hope that the chiefs of the nation would see the necessity of arresting and punishing the offenders, and restoring the men and property taken; but I am now satisfied this will not be done; and that we must resort to force to punish the past, and prevent future aggressions. The sooner this is done the better; the war party is evidently acquiring strength, and additional confidence from every outrage which we suffer to go unpunished.

I have the honor to be,

With high consideration and respect,

Your excellency's obt. servant,

(Signed)

E. P. GAINES,

Maj. Gen. Commg.

His Ex. David B. Mitchell,

Governor, &c. &c. State of Georgia.

A true copy.

ROBT. R. RUFFIN,

A. D. C.

No 5.

Copy of a letter from Thomas Freeman to Maj. Gen. Gaines.

Fort Montgomery, May 22d, 1816.

SIR,

I have the honor to make known to you, that the surveyors employed in surveying the Creek purchase, finding that their camps

and lines, were frequently reconnoitered by large parties of Indians by night, and having discovered a fresh trail of a party of these Indians, to have passed below them near the Alabama river, where 4 or 5 of them were at work; the Indians having passed secretly and in silence, the surveyors were impressed with the belief, that they would be attacked by the savages the following night, they of course suspended their operations and returned to the settlement.

I cannot in justice to my own feelings, or the public interest, order these men to renew their labors, previous to the adoption of some measures for their protection, believing as I do, that they owe their safety hitherto, to the wish of the savages to make a general sweep of the whole of them.

The survey of the public lands in this district, is therefore necessarily suspended.

Thus circumstanced, general, I am compelled to apply to you for such protection for the surveyors as you may deem necessary, to ensure the uninterrupted progress of the survey, to its completion, and shall only take the liberty of suggesting the smallest number that appears to me necessary for that purpose, which is 98 or 100 men, disposed of in the following manner: 25 men with each of the two surveyors on the standard lines, four guards of 12 men each, for four surveyors employed in running the interior lines; the other surveyors, 12 or 15 in number, may not require any guard, as they will be placed on duty between the former.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

THOMAS FREEMAN.

Major Gen. E. P. Gaines.